

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Monday's plane crash was another devastating blow to the residents of New York and the citizens of this great Nation. Although we do not know the cause yet, I have been hearing it called a routine plane crash. God help us all if we ever accept a plane crash as routine.

I was in New York Monday and had to take the train back to D.C. I was talking to the train conductor who said that the U.S. lawmakers have failed the American people. This is what our citizens think of this Congress. How many planes must go down before we truly deal with the safety issue? Not just who screened the baggage, but the safety of the entire transportation infrastructure, including ports, rails, bridges, tunnels, and maybe after yesterday, more safety inspectors for airplanes. Does this Congress have to wait until another disaster strikes again to act to protect our transportation infrastructure?

Mr. Speaker, we do not want the American people to feel that we have failed them. I do not hold much hope, but I ask the conferees to support the Senate version of the airline security bill so we can move on to other areas of homeland security.

There is something that the American public needs to know. At this very moment, American flight schools are training pilots from countries sponsoring terrorism. All those terrorists need to do is pay in cash, and those schools will teach them anything they need to know. Preventing those with ill intent from acquiring flight skills, which they can use in a hijacking, is just as important if not more important as other issues being addressed in this legislation.

It saddens me to know that the terrorists accused of these hideous acts on September 11 received their flight training at Florida flight schools. Obviously, current law regulating who may receive training and what kind of training they receive is insufficient. The other body passed a version that addressed this matter by requiring aliens and other individuals, as determined by the Department of Transportation, to acquire a certificate indicating completion of a background investigation by the Attorney General prior to beginning flight training.

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Under this section, a background check consists of a criminal, immigration status and security check. Flight training includes in-flight training, training in a simulator and any other form or aspect of training as defined by the Secretary of Transportation.

I encourage the conferees to support the language of the other body. We have waited weeks for this legislation to reach the floor and we should not leave for Thanksgiving vacation until

the American people feel safe to fly in their own country.

#### ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate you presiding over the body, the Chamber, today.

Mr. Speaker, I was tempted to ask unanimous consent that the body agree with me that Oklahoma be number one, but I would not want to put you in a position of having to object from the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. ARMEY. The Speaker is a gentleman for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today with some of my colleagues to talk about a serious subject, but let me begin by paying my respects to this great country. America is such a great country. We Americans are such hardworking people. We go to work, take care of our families, look after things in our community, we work hard, pay our bills, pay our taxes. Beyond that, maybe we save a little bit of something for our old age or our children's education or any number of dreams we might have.

We go to the private capital markets and put that savings where it will be safe and where it will grow and hope that those sacrifices we make today will give us a better day. And all of that activity that we do in what one of my favorite economists, Alfred Marshall, called the ordinary business of life, all that we do has resulted in this great land building the greatest economy in the history of the world. The wonders of product from which Americans consume daily and routinely are just magnificent and frankly the envy of the world.

But every economic system, every economy, every great Nation at a time can find a period of economic distress. We have a whole body of economic thought, financial analysis, study, by which we respond to a very simple question: If the economy falls on hard times and if in that period of time people are losing their jobs, production falls, investment falls off, the energy seems to be sapped from the economy, what by way of government policy can be done?

There are basically two areas by which we can respond to this. It is called countercyclical monetary and fiscal policy. We can respond by monetary policy to try to expand the money supply and encourage growth for the economy. In that, Chairman Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board have been more than thorough in their ef-

forts along that line. We have brought, through their efforts, interest rates down to as low a level as possible. We in the Congress of the United States need to turn our eyes toward the Federal Reserve Board and say, "Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, you have done so much, and we appreciate your effort." And at the same time we need to recognize that more can be done and in particular that more that can be done must come from us.

For reasons that are not altogether clear to everyone, the American economy began to downturn sometime last year. I remember the downturn became clearly evident to us, to the point that now Vice President DICK CHENEY as a candidate for that office spoke about it during that campaign season. I can remember how he was berated by his opposition for, as they said, talking down the economy, an unfortunate reaction in that while we had to have somebody who would say, "Hey, there is serious trouble on the waters and we need to be ready to respond to it," we really did not as a Nation need others to say, "Hush up, let's not recognize our problems."

So we went forward with that. And as the new administration took office, it took office with an understanding of this economic distress and a resolve to do something about it. And, of course, the President acted swiftly. I am proud to say this body worked hand in hand with the President as we passed earlier this year the one thing that we might do, that we could do, that we should have done and that we did do to stimulate the performance of the economy, which was to cut taxes. That tax reduction that we did in June of this past year has already showed up in the lives of most Americans. We have seen it by adjustments in our withholding taxes at work, we have seen it by the rebate of overtaxes from last year. And that may have been all that we needed to move this economy back to a good growth cycle where the jobs could have been not only sustained but in fact expanded.

Then on September 11, with that horrible, heinous act that was perpetrated in this country by international terrorists and the Nation took a blow, one that broke your heart in so many ways, most of which we have responded to and most of the correction for which is well under way today as we see by events in Afghanistan, we committed this Nation to wiping out international terrorism, and this Nation is doing the job. Is it not marvelous, Mr. Speaker, the extent to which the Congress, from both sides of the aisle, cooperate with the President in this very important job of ridding the world of these villainous characters that would perpetrate such horrible acts?

But another part of the blow that we took on that day was a blow to our economy, and that blow to that economy really sent us to some extent